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Disaster News

JOINT CALIFORNIA/FEMA UNIFIED RECOVERY COMMITMENT

PASADENA, Calif. — Even as local, state and federal firefighters continue their efforts to fully contain and extinguish the remaining fires, the State and Federal governments are working cooperatively to formulate and implement a joint recovery strategy to address the immediate and long-term needs of individuals, businesses and communities. This recovery strategy will require the same level of cooperation, determination, innovation, creativity and persistence that has characterized the joint response effort. In order to ensure the recovery effort achieves its objective most effectively and efficiently, the State of California and FEMA have committed to address each and every challenge confronted during the recovery period by collaborating effectively and efficiently.

FEMA and the State of California will partner in establishing a **Unified Recovery Strategy**. The strategy will serve as the overarching plan that guides an aggressive recovery approach to the many challenges associated with individual and community recovery from a disaster of this magnitude. This strategy is intended to bring together Federal, State, local and tribal governments, volunteer organizations, the private sector and individuals to ensure that essential services are provided and that recovery challenges are addressed.

Key elements of this strategy include:

- A State-Federal **Housing Task Force** that will support local governments by identifying short- and long-term housing options and actions that can be taken to help displaced residents find transitional housing quickly
- A State-Federal **Debris Management Task Force** that will help local governments expedite the safe, thorough and timely removal of disaster-related debris.
- A State-Federal **Multi-Agency Support Group** to support local governments in addressing, in an environmentally sensitive manner, flooding, erosion and debris flow concerns.
- A State-Federal **Tribal Task Force** to help affected tribes in Southern California locate supplemental resources, including Public Assistance and Individual Assistance, for tribal jurisdictions.

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In addition to these task forces, which have been formed to aggressively engage on returning life to normal for Southern California residents, the State of California and FEMA are committed to open and transparent communications in the examination of authorities, capabilities and capacities in resolving these and other issues.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates overall state-agency response to major disasters in support of local government. OES is also responsible for maintaining the State Emergency Plan and coordinating the California's preparedness, mitigation and recovery efforts.

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